

Get Out and Vote - It's Important!

Effective 2014, local government elections in British Columbia are held every four years. This includes elections for mayors, councillors, regional district electoral area directors, school trustees (SD46) and local trustees for the Islands Trust. The next local government election will be held on **Saturday, November 15, 2014**.

Local governments have a substantial impact on people's lives. For example, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) provides services ranging from parks and recreation to waste management, from building permit approvals to the provision of water, from public transit to docks, and much more. Elections are an opportunity for the public to directly influence their local government and the community where they reside or own property. General voting day is November 15. Advance voting will take place on November 5 and 12. The SCRD is providing voting opportunities at the following locations:

November 5—Advance Voting

Pender Harbour Community Hall
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Ballots for Area A and SD46 Rural Area 1 only)

SCRD Boardroom 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Ballots for Areas A, B, D, E, F, Islands Trust, SD46 Rural Areas 1 & 2)

Gibsons and Area Community Centre Rm 209
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Ballots for Areas D, E, F, Islands Trust, SD46 Rural Area 2)

November 12—Advance Voting

Pender Harbour Community Hall
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Ballots for Area A, SD46 Rural Area 1)

SCRD Boardroom 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Ballots for Areas A, B, D, E, F, Islands Trust, SD46 Rural Areas 1 & 2)

Gibsons and Area Community Centre Rm 209
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Ballots for Areas D, E, F, Islands Trust, SD46 Rural Area 2)

November 15—General Voting Day

Area A & SD 46 Rural Area 1
Egmont Community Hall
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in Garden Bay
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Pender Harbour Community Hall
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Area B, Islands Trust & SD46 Rural Area 1
Coopers Green
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Area D, SD 46 Rural Area 2
Roberts Creek Hall
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Area E, SD 46 Rural Area 2
Frank West Hall
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Area F, Islands Trust, SD 46 Rural Area 2
Eric Cardinal Hall
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Gambier Island Community Hall
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Keats Camp
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please visit www.scrd.ca/General-Government, for more details or watch for notices in the Coast Reporter.

Transit Service Hours Grow in September

The Sunshine Coast Regional District and BC Transit are pleased to announce service hours are growing by more than 2,800 annual hours effective September 2, 2014.

Along with traditional seasonal changes, Route 90 Langdale Express/ 90 Sechelt Express will see the bulk of the added service hours so that frequency on the popular route can be increased.

Route 2 West Sechelt and Route 4 Halfmoon Bay will offer improved service to the West Sechelt area.

"The SCRD is thrilled to be moving ahead with first phase priorities from the recently completed Transit Future Plan," said SCRD Board Chair, Garry Nohr. "This service increase will provide better transit coverage and frequency, as requested by our communities".



The fall schedule is in effect from September 2, 2014 to October 13, 2014. For more information, please pick up a Fall Rider's Guide on board BC Transit buses, call 604-885-6899 or visit: www.bctransit.com/regions/sun



Energy Savings

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Recreation Division is continually making significant strides to address climate change and establish a more sustainable and vibrant community through energy conservation, efficiency, and renewability.

The Sechelt Aquatic Centre is an excellent example with its recent underwater lighting upgrade. The new LED lights will consume almost 90% less electricity than the existing halogen lights while improving the lighting conditions and enhancing the user's experience. During the summer months, the facility's solar thermal system is looking to offset its heat pump electricity consumption by almost 80%.

The Sunshine Coast Arena recently upgraded its lighting system to Fluorescent T5HO and LED technologies realizing a 17% reduction to the facility's annual electricity consumption. These projects could not have been realized without the close collaboration of numerous stakeholders, including BC Hydro, SCRD staff, and Olson Electric and the financial support of the BC Hydro Power Smart Program.

The Gibsons and Area Community Centre is undergoing a detailed energy study this year to explore ways in which the facility can also reduce its demand for electricity and natural gas. Together the improved energy use at these facilities will prove vital to the success of the organization's short term and long term energy and GHG (Green House Gases) reduction plans.

Utility rates are expected to increase 50% over the next ten years. The SCRD will immediately save money through the energy reductions achieved and also avoid future costs associated with increasing utility rates. According to the Sustainable Energy Management Plan, the SCRD could potentially avoid \$4 million in energy costs over the next ten years through continued practices and further implementation of energy conservation, efficiency, and renewability.

For a copy of the SCRD's Sustainable Energy Management Plan: www.scrd.ca/Climate--Energy